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SM 615 Supervised Mission Experience

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Guidelines for the
SM 615
Supervised Mission Experience
In Asbury Theological Seminary's
Master of Arts in World Mission and Evangelism

Rationale

Asbury Seminary's Master of Arts program in World Mission and Evangelism is essentially a two year (60 semester credit hours) academic degree beyond the B.A. (or equivalent) which prepares informed practitioners for careers in cross cultural mission and ministries of evangelism. Because of the focus on practice and the indispensable value of the action/reflection model for life time learning, the program requires some exposure and/or involvement in a cross cultural field with appropriate reflection on mission theory observed and the impact of the experience on the student.

Options for the Field Experience

The field may be either: a) a field exposure experience such as a mission field trip to another country or exposure to urban ministries in Chicago, or b) a field involvement experience such as leading an evangelistic Bible study for prisoners or ministering with addictive people for the Salvation Army.

In preparing for either experience a one to two page LEARNING CONTRACT signed by both the student and the field supervisor must be submitted ahead of time to the ESJ School's S. Miss. coordinator. The contract should indicate specifically what kinds of situations and ministries will be observed and/or performed. Include your desired outcomes from the experience, the expectations and responsibilities agreed on, and a schedule for regular discussions to be held with your supervisor.

Following the field experience the student will need to request that his/her supervisor write a brief EVALUATION of the student's participation and/or ministry efforts – including any special gifts noted and any areas needing additional development. This should be submitted directly to the ESJ School's SM 615 Coordinator.

Scheduling

Because the supervised mission experience is designed to serve as an integrative and reflective experience, SM 615 will normally be taken during the student's final year of studies. Students will register for SM 615, and pay three hours tuition, in the term of the experience; and will need to clarify what their field experience will be no later than mid-October of their last year of studies.

Options available for SM 615 include:

1. the field based courses MW 690, MS 660-663*
2. a mission agency's study tour lasting at least 10 days in the field
3. a self-secured placement or employment in a ministry or institution involving at least 60 hours of *cross cultural* experience and *evangelistic* opportunities

4. some other option organized or approved by the ESJ School S. Miss. Coordinator, or
5. Students with a two or more years of full time cross cultural and/or evangelistic field experience prior to matriculation in the M. A. program find it possible to negotiate an exception with the S. Miss. Coordinator and reflect on earlier experience in order to complete the SM 615 requirement.*

*When students select one of these options, no tuition is paid for SM 615. The student will complete a waiver form for SM 615 and sign up for an additional two-hour elective, normally within the mission and evangelism curriculum, to complete the 60 hours required for graduation. The student is still required to complete the reflection paper required for SM 615, and to participate fully in MS 701 (Sr. Reflection Seminar).

The Reflection Paper

The SM 615 reflection paper (10 to 12 pages, double spaced, following Slade Form and Style using either MLA, or a footnote or endnote approach to documentation) is written following the field experience. Initially the paper will briefly describe two or three important situations, incidents, or cases that the student observed or became involved in, and it will reflect on these experiences in terms of:

1. specific insights gained
2. how these insights confirm or contrast with resources studies in at least two courses in the student's M. A. curriculum (documenting sources cited), and
3. how these experiences will inform the student's plans for future ministry.

In addition, the paper should conclude with a section identifying:

1. several ministry questions generated by the experience,
2. ways the experience has affected the student's sense of calling, and
3. personal skills and/or competencies still needing development.

A copy of the paper will be submitted to the S. Miss. Coordinator who will recommend "credit" or "no credit." The student will retain a copy of the paper for use in the MS 701 group closure experience scheduled during his/her final Spring semester.

Evaluation

SM 615 is a two credit course in which the student receives either a "credit" or a "no credit" grade. Students should take the field experience seriously since faculty advisors and field supervisors tend to become key professionals in one's developing network, and are often asked to serve as references. The World Missions and Evangelism M. A. student must receive "credit" in a supervised mission course to graduate. Failure to do so will necessitate repeating SM 615 until "credit" is earned.

Costs

Any scholarship aid a student is regularly receiving is applicable to the two hours credit for SM 615. When an agency charges for "off campus instruction," the field

agency or student submits an invoice to the Provost's office, and an amount up to what the student pays for tuition is forwarded to the agency. If the charges exceed the tuition paid to Asbury, the student pays the difference. The student incurs any additional costs involved for travel, meals, or lodging connected with the field experience unless a mileage reimbursement is appropriate for driving back and forth to a semester long placement. Check with the S.Min. Office for the *Mileage Reimbursement Policy*.